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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
OAKLAND DIVISION

EPIC GAMES, INC.

Plaintiff, Counter-defendant
v.

APPLE INC.,

Defendant, Counterclaimant

Case No. 4:20-cv-05640-YGR-TSH

**APPLE INC.'S ADMINISTRATIVE
MOTION TO SEAL**

The Honorable Thomas S. Hixson

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Pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(c) and Local Rule 79-5, Apple Inc. (“Apple”) respectfully moves the Court to seal a portion of the privilege log entry submitted as an exhibit to Apple’s Objection to Special Master Rulings on Apple’s Productions of Re-Reviewed Privileged Documents (“Objection”), which was filed under section 4 of the Joint Stipulation and Order Approving Privilege Re-Review Protocol (Dkt. 1092) (the “Protocol”). The exhibit contains information sealable under controlling law and Local Rule 79-5. Specifically, the exhibit contains an excerpt from Apple’s privilege log prepared for the Special Masters conducting evaluation of the privilege claims stemming from Apple’s re-review. The privilege log is required to be filed under the terms of the Protocol, but contains competitively sensitive, non-public information regarding Apple’s internal project codenames, which Apple intends to keep confidential. Apple’s proposed redaction of that information is highlighted in yellow in the un-redacted version of the exhibit that Apple is filing under seal and is itemized in the concurrently filed Declaration of Mark A. Perry (the “Perry Declaration”).

LEGAL STANDARD

“The court may, for good cause, issue an order to protect a party or person from annoyance, embarrassment, oppression, or undue burden or expense,” including preventing the disclosure of information. *See* Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(c). The Court has “broad latitude” “to prevent disclosure of materials for many types of information, including, *but not limited to*, trade secrets or other confidential research, development, or confidential information.” *Phillips v. Gen. Motors Corp.*, 307 F.3d 1206, 1211 (9th Cir. 2002) (emphasis in original); *see also Kamakana v. City and Cnty. of Honolulu*, 447 F.3d 1172, 1178 (9th Cir. 2006) (compelling circumstances exist to seal potential release of trade secrets) (citing *Nixon v. Warner Commc’ns, Inc.*, 435 U.S. 589, 598 (1978)); *PQ Labs, Inc. v. Qi*, 2014 WL 4617216, at *1 (N.D. Cal. Sept. 15, 2014) (granting multiple motions to seal where publication would lead to the disclosure of trade secrets); *Apple Inc. v. Rivos, Inc.*, 2024 WL 1204115, at *1 (N.D. Cal. Mar. 21, 2024) (granting request to seal “internal product codenames” and noting that a prior request for the same had also been granted).

Although a party must show compelling circumstances to seal information appended to dispositive motions, the standard for non-dispositive motions is “good cause.” *In re Anthem, Inc. Data Breach Litig.*, 2018 WL 3067783, at *2 (N.D. Cal. Mar. 16, 2018); *Rembrandt Diagnostics, LP v.*

1 *Innovacon, Inc.*, 2018 WL 1001097, at *1 (S.D. Cal. Feb. 21, 2018); *see DNA Genotek Inc. v. Spectrum*
 2 *Sols., L.L.C.*, 2023 WL 4335734, at *2 (S.D. Cal. May 10, 2023). In general, requests to seal information
 3 should be narrowly tailored “to remove from public view only the material that is protected.” *Ervine v.*
 4 *Warden*, 214 F. Supp. 3d 917, 919 (E.D. Cal. 2016); *Vineyard House, LLC v. Constellation Brands U.S.*
 5 *Ops., Inc.*, 619 F. Supp. 3d 970, 972 n.2 (N.D. Cal. 2021) (Gonzalez Rogers, J.) (granting a motion to
 6 seal “because the request is narrowly tailored and only includes confidential information”).

7 DISCUSSION

8 Apple seeks to seal competitively sensitive, non-public information regarding Apple’s internal
 9 project codenames in the privilege log submitted as an exhibit to Apple’s Objections. *See* Perry Decl.
 10 ¶ 5.

11 Apple’s administrative motion to seal is subject to the “good cause” standard because it concerns
 12 non-dispositive objections related to discovery. *See, e.g., Kamakana*, 447 F.3d at 1179 (“[T]he public
 13 has less of a need for access to court records attached only to non-dispositive motions because those
 14 documents are often unrelated, or only tangentially related, to the underlying cause of action.”); *Lee v.*
 15 *Great Am. Life Ins. Co.*, 2023 WL 8126850, at *2 (C.D. Cal. Nov. 13, 2023) (“Matters concerning
 16 discovery generally are considered nondispositive of the litigation”) (quotation omitted); *see also In re*
 17 *Anthem, Inc. Data Breach Litig.*, 2018 WL 3067783, at *2; *Rembrandt Diagnostics, LP*, 2018
 18 WL1001097, at *1; *Al Otro Lado, Inc. v. Wolf*, 2020 WL 5422784, at *4 (S.D. Cal. Sept. 10, 2020).

19 Apple easily meets the good cause standard here. *Lamartina v. VMware, Inc.*, 2024 WL 3049450,
 20 at *2 (N.D. Cal. June 17, 2024) (good cause to seal internal email communications). Apple operates in
 21 an intensely competitive environment, and thus has taken extensive measures to protect the
 22 confidentiality of its information. *See* Perry Decl. ¶ 3. Sealing the project codename in Exhibit A is
 23 necessary here because public disclosure of this information would risk competitors gaining an unfair
 24 business advantage by benefiting from Apple’s efforts into program development and proprietary
 25 research that Apple intends to keep confidential. *See, e.g., Rodriguez v. Google LLC*, 2024 WL 42537,
 26 at *2 (N.D. Cal. Jan. 3, 2024) (granting sealing of “internal terms” in documents that Google asserted
 27 contained “business information that might harm their competitive standing or become a vehicle for
 28 improper use” if public) (internal quotations omitted); *Rodriguez v. Google LLC*, 2025 WL 50425, at

*11 (N.D. Cal. Jan. 7, 2025) (finding “compelling reasons” to seal internal code names); *Apple Inc. v. Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd.*, 2013 WL 412864, at *2 (N.D. Cal. Feb. 1, 2013) (granting sealing motion for redactions consisting of “Apple’s confidential CAD designs and internal project code names,” finding that the request was “narrowly tailored to Apple’s proprietary information”). Here, the entry in the privilege log reveals a confidential project codename. Good cause exists to protect this information.

Moreover, Apple has narrowly tailored its sealing request to include only the information necessary to protect the project codename. *See* Perry Decl. ¶ 6; *Krommenhock v. Post Foods, LLC*, 2020 WL 2322993, at *3 (N.D. Cal. May 11, 2020) (granting motion to seal “limited” information); *see also* *Phillips*, 307 F.3d at 1211; *Williams v. Apple Inc.*, 2021 WL 2476916, at *2–3 (N.D. Cal. June 17, 2021) (noting Apple’s narrowed sealing requests with “tailored redactions”); Dkt. No. 643 at 3 (finding Apple’s proposed redactions appropriate for an exhibit when redactions were “narrowly tailored” to “sensitive and confidential information”). Apple has only partially redacted limited information within the privilege log entry. *See* Perry Decl. ¶ 6.

For the foregoing reasons, there is good cause that warrants partially sealing the exhibit to Apple’s Objections.

CONCLUSION

Apple respectfully requests that the Court seal the information identified in the accompanying declaration.

Dated: May 16, 2025

Respectfully submitted,

By: Mark A. Perry

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